University of Agronomic Sciences and Veterinary Medicine of Bucharest
Faculty of Horticulture

International Student Symposium *"Hortus Academicus"*
April 07, 2023, Bucharest, Romania

Fruit Growing in Belize

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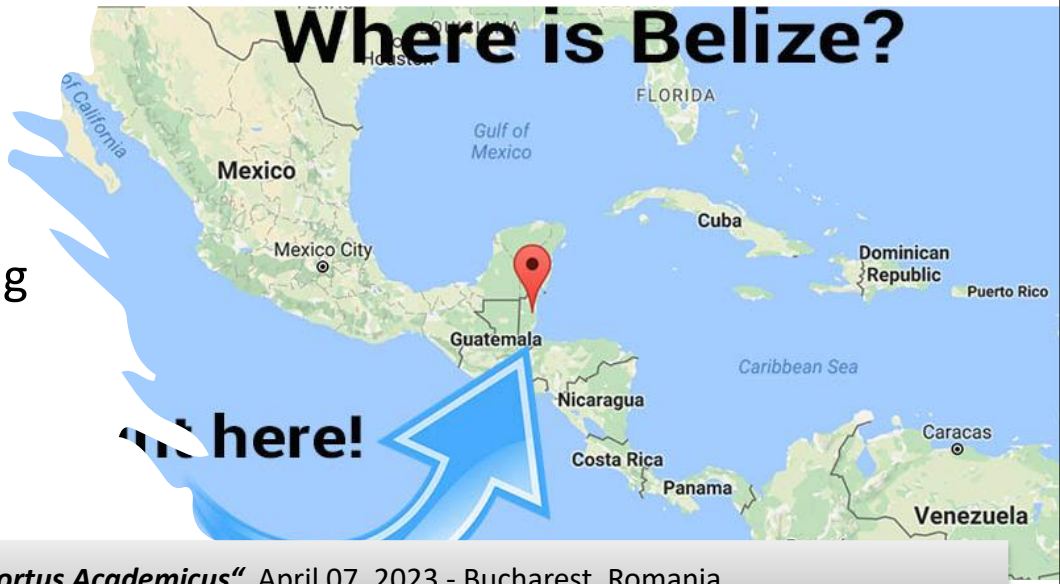
Meet Belize!!

- Belize is the only country located in C.A. where English is the official language
- Form of government: Parliamentary democracy, part of the British Commonwealth
- We have more cultural and economic relations with the English-speaking Caribbean countries than with its neighboring Central American countries.
- Belize is filled with 450 cayes



Belize's Economy

- Belize's open, private sector-led economy is based primarily on tourism.
- Tourism is the #1 foreign exchange earner for the economy of Belize.
- Belize is considered a tax haven

Tourism in Belize (seaside)

- The Belize Barrier Reef turned 10,000 years old in June 2022
- The Second largest barrier reef in the world

The Great Blue Hole

Measuring roughly 1,000 feet (300 meters) across and over 400 feet (120 meters) deep, Belize's Great Blue Hole is the largest geological formation of its kind in the world, and can even be seen from outer space!

Take a close look at

THE BELIZE BARRIER REEF

5 fun facts about this outstanding marine ecosystem

The Belize Barrier Reef is the **2ND LARGEST BARRIER REEF IN THE WORLD**

It is home to **1,400 SPECIES** of fauna and flora, **17** of which are **ENDANGERED**

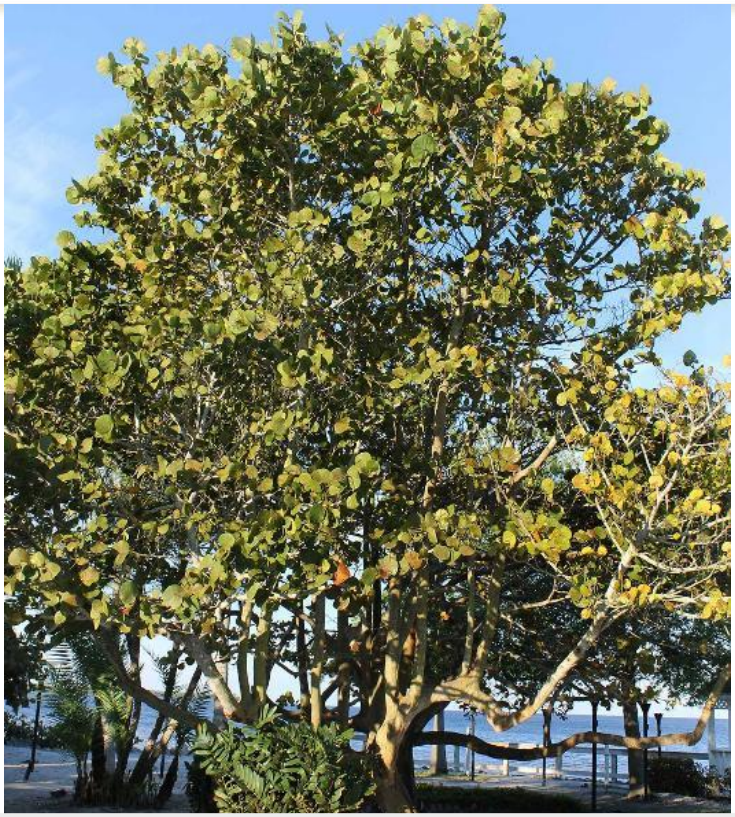
Thanks to tireless protection work, the barrier reef was **REMOVED FROM UNESCO'S LIST OF WORLD HERITAGE IN DANGER**

It is **300 KILOMETRES** long

It includes **THE GREAT BLUE HOLE**, a **300-METRE** underwater cenote: a diver's paradise

Sea Grapes (*Coccoloba uvifera*)

- Tree native to the West Indies and can grow up to 50 feet tall
- It is common on the beaches and cayes.
- Many children roam the beaches gathering sea grapes to sell by the bucket full.



Fruit growing in Belize

Oranges (*Citrus sinensis*)

Belize has approximately 50,000 citrus acres

Most of the fruits are processed into concentrate for export.

Fruit growing in Belize

- Orange juice, citric oil
- The waste orange peel is used for making electricity (4%) in Belize
- After decomposition it is put back in the farm for soil improvement.

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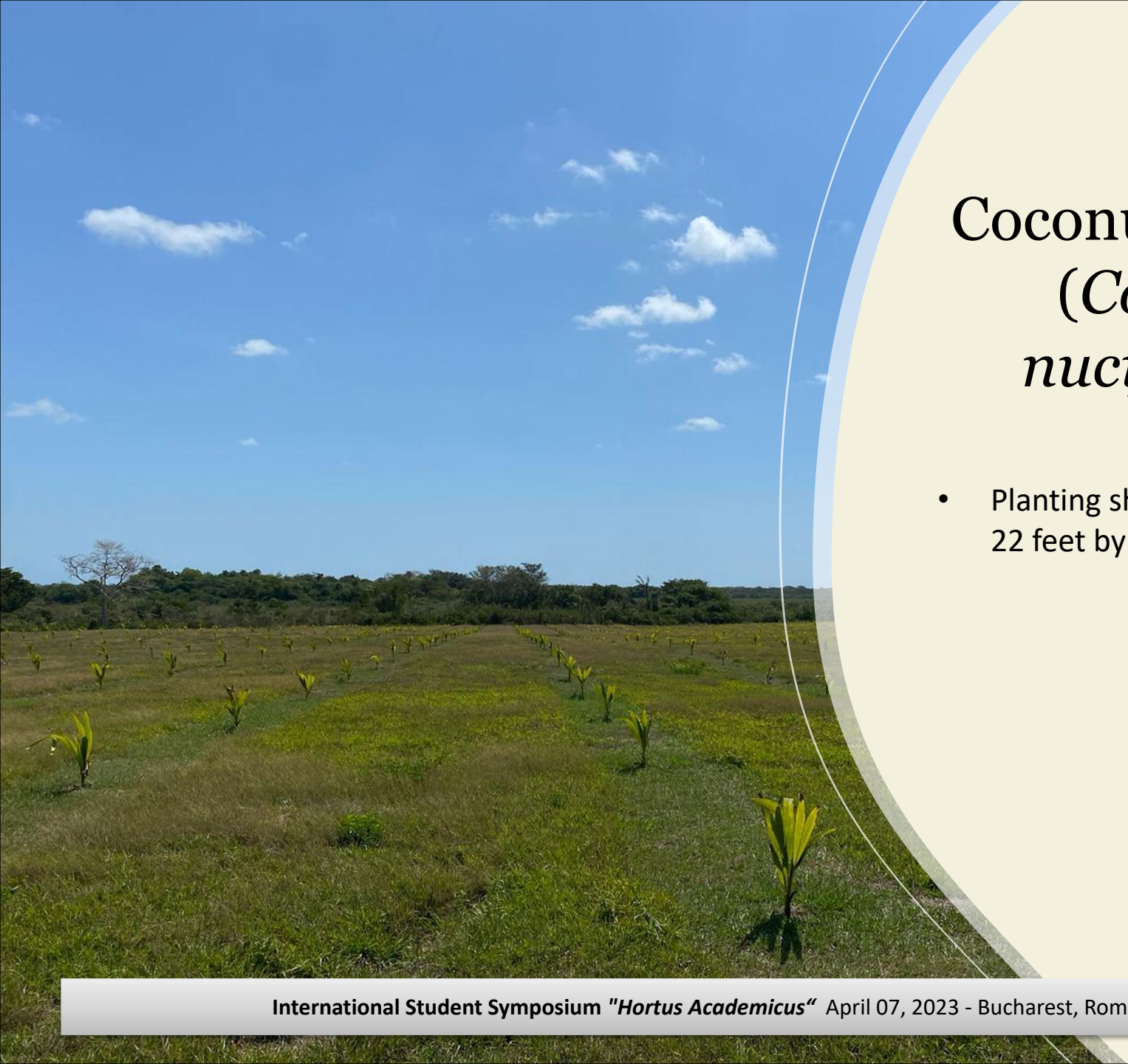
Coconut palm, (*Cocos nucifera*)

- Approximately 5,600 acres of coconut in Belize
- Sir Isaac Mortar was the first Belizean to become millionaire by cultivating coconut

Collecting Natural Coconut Water



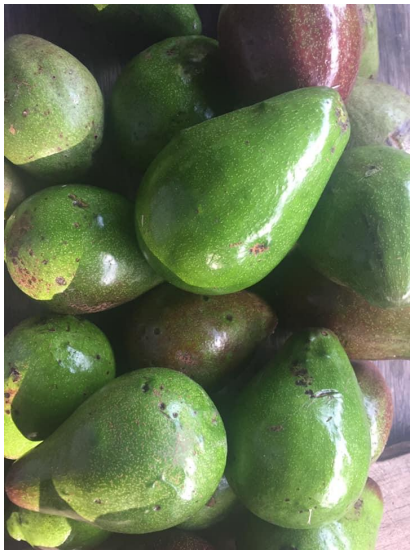
Coconut palm, (*Cocos nucifera*)

- Planting should be done 22 feet by 22 feet.

Coconut Products

- Coconut oil accounts for an income of $5 million
- Coconut water brings in $4 million
- Milk powder provides $3 million
- Other by products fetch $1 million

Avocado (*Persea americana*)



Polyculture

Polyculture

Polyculture

Pineapples planted on contour for erosion control and nutrient collection in three-year-old recently established coconut dominant polyculture.

Cocao (*Theobroma cacao*)

- Most cocoa trees are grown in Belize by small farmers, and a large percentage of the crop is produced and marketed as organic.
- About 1,300 smallholder families make up the country's cocoa growers.
- Many of these small farmers grow cacao using agroforestry systems, interspersing cacao with plantains, avocados and other tree and fruit crops.
- Interestingly, over 25 years ago, a small wild cacao tree was discovered growing in an established private protected area owned by a non-governmental conservation organization.

Cacao (*Theobroma cacao*) Polyculture

Conclusion

- Belize is one of the most exotic and culturally diverse in the Caribbean
- Belize has a desirable subtropical climate, attracting thousands of tourists each season
- The Belizean people are made up of Mayans, Kriol, Garifuna and Mennonite
- Belize's rich soil is ideal for growing a number of fruit and nut trees. Some of the most commercially viable species include: custard apple (Annona), guava, mango, papaya, bananas, pineapple, cashew, coconut palm, and manmee.

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THANK YOU